

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes a change to Fig. 11. Reference number "104a" has been amended to "103a." The sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 11.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given the present application. The application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office action, and amended as necessary to more clearly and particularly describe the subject matter of the application.

The Examiner objected to the ABSTRACT because it is more than one paragraph and line 1 of paragraph 1 contains the implied phrase "It is an object of the invention to provide." The ABSTRACT has been amended according to the Examiner's instruction.

The Examiner requested correction of the arrangement of the specification according to 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b). The arrangement of the specification has been amended, and it complies with the requirement of 37 C.F.R. 1.77(b).

The Examiner rejected claims 5-8 under 35 U.S.C. 102 (b) over Sickles et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 6,157,006, hereinafter "Sickles"). Claims 5 and 6 have been amended to better describe certain aspects of the application. Claim 7 has been canceled. Claim 8 depends on the amended claim 5. For at least the following reasons, the rejection is respectfully traversed.

Sickles does not disclose each and every element of claims 5, 6, and 8. More specifically, Sickles does not disclose the compare and judge portion for comparing the detected temperature with a reference temperature. Sickles merely discloses that a user manually sets the temperature dial 56 and the humidity dial 58 to the desired temperature and humidity based on the information displayed on the displays 52 and 54 (Sickles; column 5, lines 18-24). On the other hand, in the present invention, the compare and judge portion 29 in the control part compares the desired temperature with a reference temperature and generates a command. Based on the command, the heating chamber interior heater and the steam supplier are controlled.

Therefore, Sickles' apparatus is different from the cooking apparatus of the present invention which comprises the compare and judge portion for comparing the detected temperature with a reference temperature. Applicants therefore, respectfully submit that Sickles does not disclose each and every element of claim 5. Claims 6 and 8 depend from the independent claim 5. Therefore, the foregoing argument is equally applicable to these dependent claims.

Claims 9-19 have been newly added to describe further aspects of the application.

With regard to the independent claim 15, Sickles does not disclose a heating chamber interior heater that comprises a convection heater, a magnetron, and at least one another heater. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Sickles does not disclose or teach all of the elements of claim 15.

With regard to the independent claim 19, Sickles does not disclose or teach that a heating chamber temperature is an infrared sensor. Applicants, therefore, respectfully submit that Sickles does not disclose or teach all of the elements of claim 19.


Claims 9-14, 16-18 and 20 depend directly or indirectly from the independent claim 5, 14, or 19 and thus are patentable for at least the same reasons as the parent claim.

In light of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in a condition for allowance and notice to that effect is hereby requested. If it is determined that the application is not in a condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to initiate a telephone interview with the undersigned attorney to expedite prosecution of the present application.

If there are any additional fees resulting from this communication, please charge same to
our Deposit Account No. 16-0820, our Order No. NGB-41414.

Respectfully submitted,

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